

NSC BRIEFING

11 August 1960

CONGO

I. Katanga Premier Tshombé's apparent willingness to permit the entry of UN troops probably stemmed from his recognition that Belgians will not retain their troops in Katanga in face of UN disapproval.

A. Tshombé possibly hoping to capitalize on growing sentiment within Congo for decentralized government such as he himself favors.

B. Signs of backing for Tshombé's confederation views have appeared in Leopoldville, where Abako party has voted no confidence in Lumumba regime, and in Kasai Province, where anti-Lumumba groups are attempting to form a new province in area adjoining Katanga.

C. Hammarskjold and two companies of Swedish troops expected to arrive Elisabethville 12 August.

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C. Belgians continue to take their pique out on US and to hint they will have to review their commitments to NATO. Brussels may turn over to UN the trust territory of Ruanda-Urundi, which adjoins the Congo, on grounds that it too expensive to administer by itself. ^{Premier Eyskens has stated that he will ask for a vote of confidence in his Congo policies next week.} ~~Public criticism of Prime Minister Eysken's government has sparked rumors that he may soon resign.~~

25X1 III. In Leopoldville, Lumumba faced with increasing domestic opposition at time when he does not have reliable security forces of his own.

A. Lumumba injured only slightly when his car stoned by Abako adherents on 10 August. Crowd had gathered after Congolese police raided an Abako office, possibly ^{25X1} to forestall any attempted coup.

C. Lumumba probably hopes to "use" UN as vehicle by which to re-establish dominance of central government. If UN balks openly at serving Lumumba's ends, he may accept troops which have been offered him by Ghana and Guinea.

1. Nkrumah reportedly ^(planning) replaced British officers of Ghanaian troops now in Congo, to facilitate troop transfer from the UN to Congolese command should he so desire.

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IV. Soviet pronouncements on Congo carefully avoid committing USSR to any unilateral action but at same time attempt to sustain impression that Communist bloc countries stand ready to send forces if present UN contingents unable to enforce Security Council's resolutions.

A. Soviet leaders apparently hope that implied threats of unilateral action will increase pressure for early withdrawal of Belgian forces, enabling Moscow to claim credit for having protected Congolese independence and unity.

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(B. USSR has stepped up efforts to discredit UN role in Congo.

1. Soviet officials in Leopoldville, described as "free-wheeling," are openly predicting failure of UN measures to restore order, after which they boast USSR will step in and "save the day."

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